



The Florida House of Representatives

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Legislation Creating the Department of Economic Opportunity Passes House Select Committee on Government Reorganization

Tallahassee, Fla. – Representative John Legg (R-Port Richey), chair of the House Select Committee on Government Reorganization, released the following statement regarding the passage of a proposed committee bill (PCB) that creates the Department of Economic Opportunity. The Department of Economic Opportunity would be responsible for coordinating the efficient delivery of services and programs related to economic development, workforce development, community planning and development, and affordable housing.

“It is essential that the State of Florida has a fully integrated, comprehensive system that ensures the state’s goals and policies of economic development, workforce development, community planning and affordable housing are achieved. The creation of the Department of Economic Opportunity does that by establishing an integrated model that will serve as a single point of contact for economic development and promote the coordination and efficient delivery of programs.

“The department would also serve as a central point of contact for businesses and stakeholders interested in expanding their business into the state who are seeking economic development incentives. Under the new department, Florida would provide a final decision on whether a business is approved for an economic development incentive within 10 days, simplifying the current multistep process which can take more than 40 days.

“I also welcome Governor Scott’s support of this important legislation; we have a shared belief that the Department of Economic Opportunity will be an important tool in our road to economic recovery as it will significantly increase the state’s ability to both recruit new businesses and expand and retain existing businesses.”

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